

had acted correctly, except that needless violence had been displayed in the arrest of the deserters.

Though the two nations had once again looked at each other in the face, the discussion of an economic partnership in Morocco was quickly resumed. By the agreement of February 8, 1909, Germany recognized the special political interests of France and promised not to oppose them, while France undertook not to thwart German commercial and industrial interests. Both were to "seek to associate their nationals in the business which they may be able to secure." On the same day letters were exchanged between Jules Cambon and Schoen, the Foreign Minister, declaring that the political *desir**ressement* of Germany did not affect the positions already held by her nationals, but implying that they would not compete for posts in the public services of a political character, and that when their interests were associated it would be recognized that those of France were the most important. The agreement appeared to embody a profound modification of Franco-German relations. Pichon declared that it removed all causes of conflict in Morocco. Prince Radolin, the German Ambassador, observed that a lasting *entente* had been secured, and the Chancellor explained to the Reichstag that it assured France her legitimate political influence without allowing her to appropriate the country.

The pact of 1909 which raised such high hopes was fated to be an apple of discord, for the good-will of the Governments was paralysed by the rivalry of the business men. The spoils to be divided consisted of mines, public works and railways, and in all three so many difficulties arose that at the opening of 1911 no progress had been made. The question of railways was complicated by the French claim to exclude strategic lines

from the *condominium*; but an agreement was within sight when in March, 1911, a change of Ministry removed Pichon, the author of the pact, from the Quai d'Orsay. His place was taken by the inexperienced Qruppi, who was persuaded to re-open the question. " It would be very inconvenient if we do not sign/" telegraphed Jules Cambon from Berlin; " if we make Germany think that we want to circumvent the Convention of 1909, it would create many difficulties/* Despite this sensible advice Cruppi refused to sign without further reflection. The unfavourable impression created at Berlin was deepened by the simultaneous refusal of the French Government to sanction a *consortium* arranged between French capital-